

# HEROES

CHAPTER 152

## THE PAINTED LADY

Amanda has tracked down her birth mother, Lydia, at the carnival. Lydia tries to convince her daughter the Carnival is no place for a young girl to grow up but Amanda feels she has finally found a place where she fits in. Fearing her daughter has fallen into Samuel's clutches for good, Lydia makes a last ditch effort to connect with her daughter...

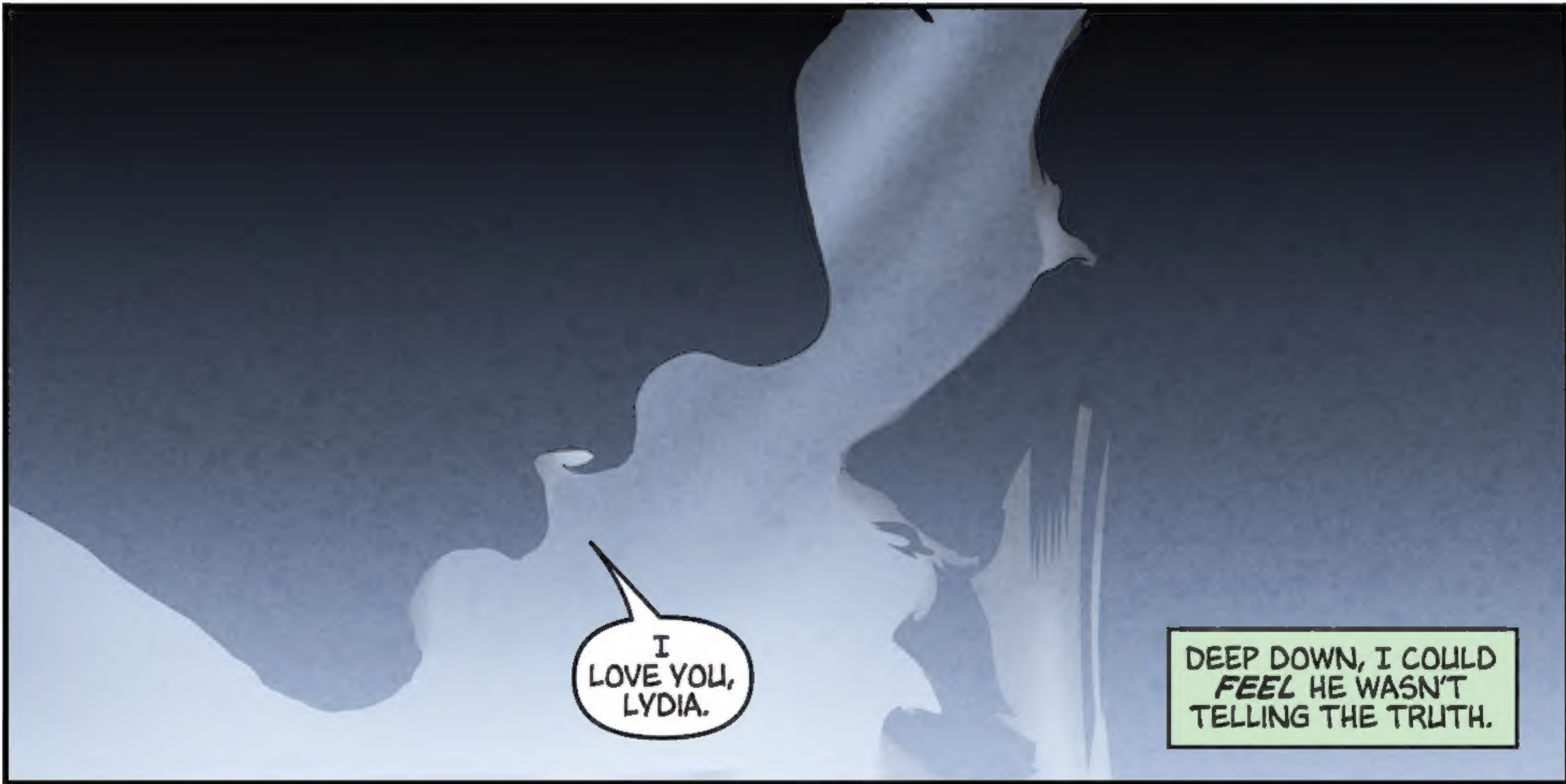




I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ME, AMANDA. BUT I'M YOUR MOTHER SO YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR ME OUT.

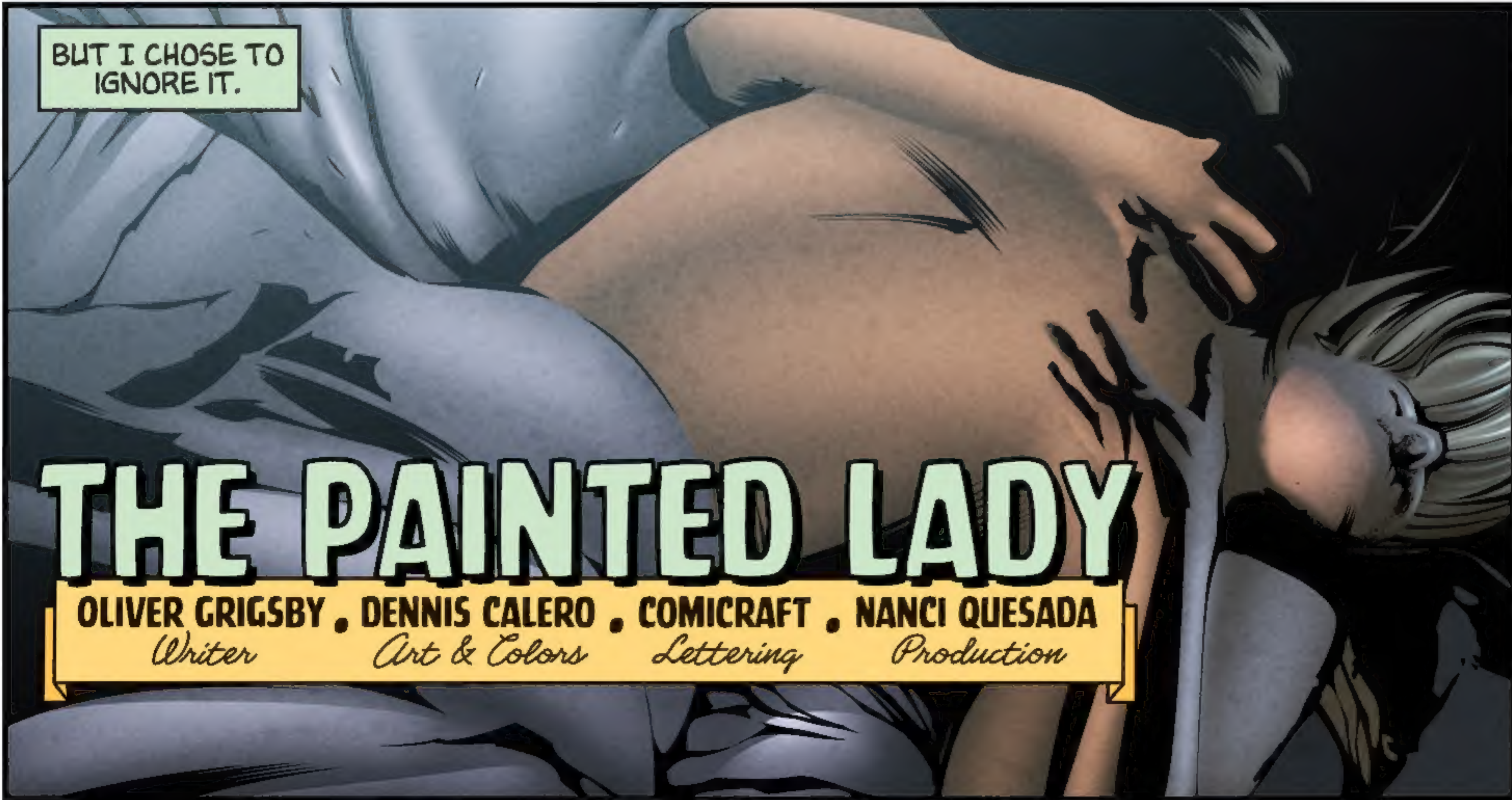


I WANT TO TELL YOU MY STORY.



I LOVE YOU, LYDIA.

DEEP DOWN, I COULD *FEEL* HE WASN'T TELLING THE TRUTH.

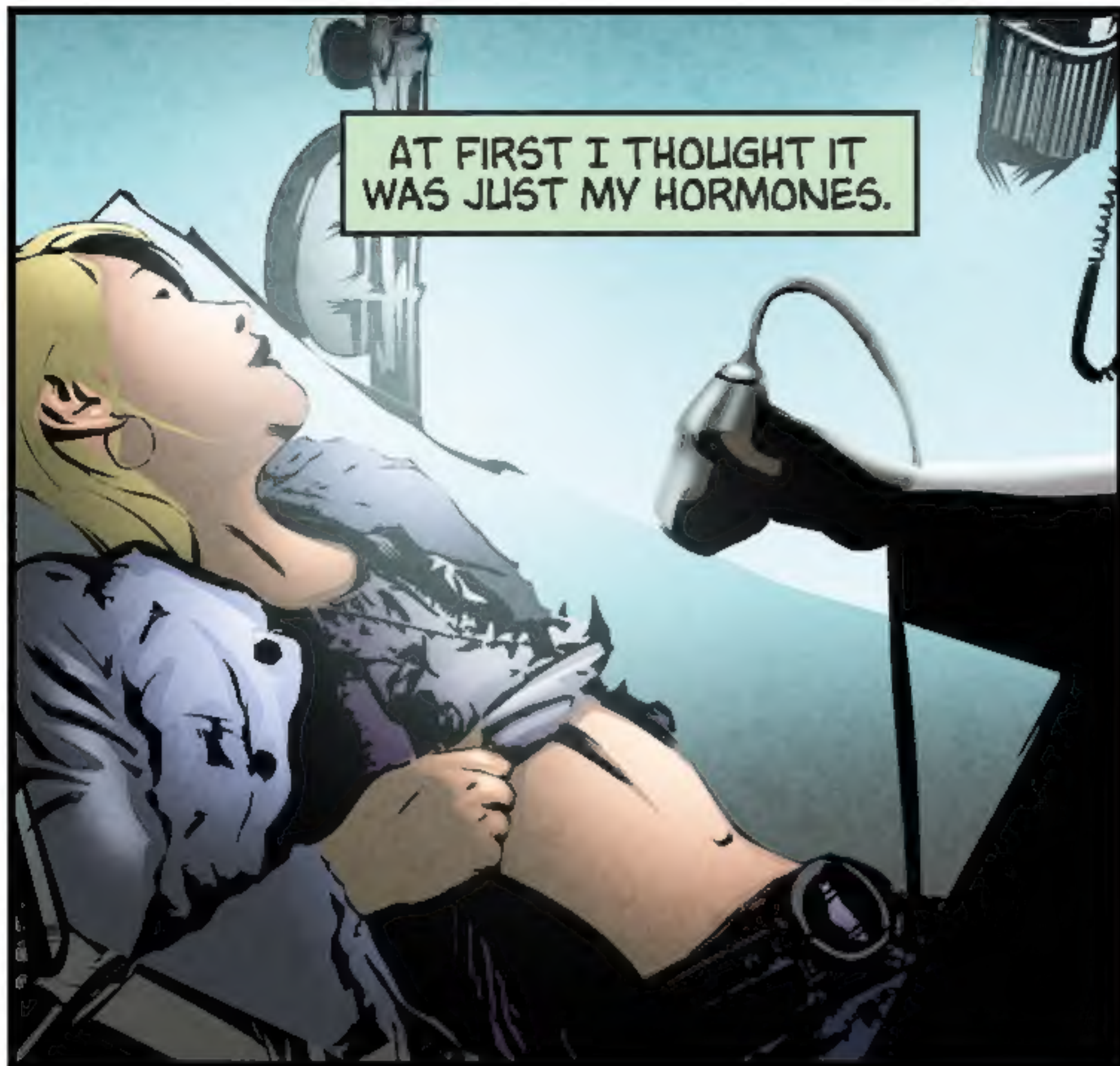


BUT I CHOSE TO IGNORE IT.

# THE PAINTED LADY

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*Writer      Art & Colors      Lettering      Production*





AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT  
WAS JUST MY HORMONES.



BUT I CAME TO REALIZE I  
COULD *FEEL* OTHER PEOPLES  
WANTS AND DESIRES.



AND HE  
WANTED  
TO RUN.

SO I RAN  
FIRST.





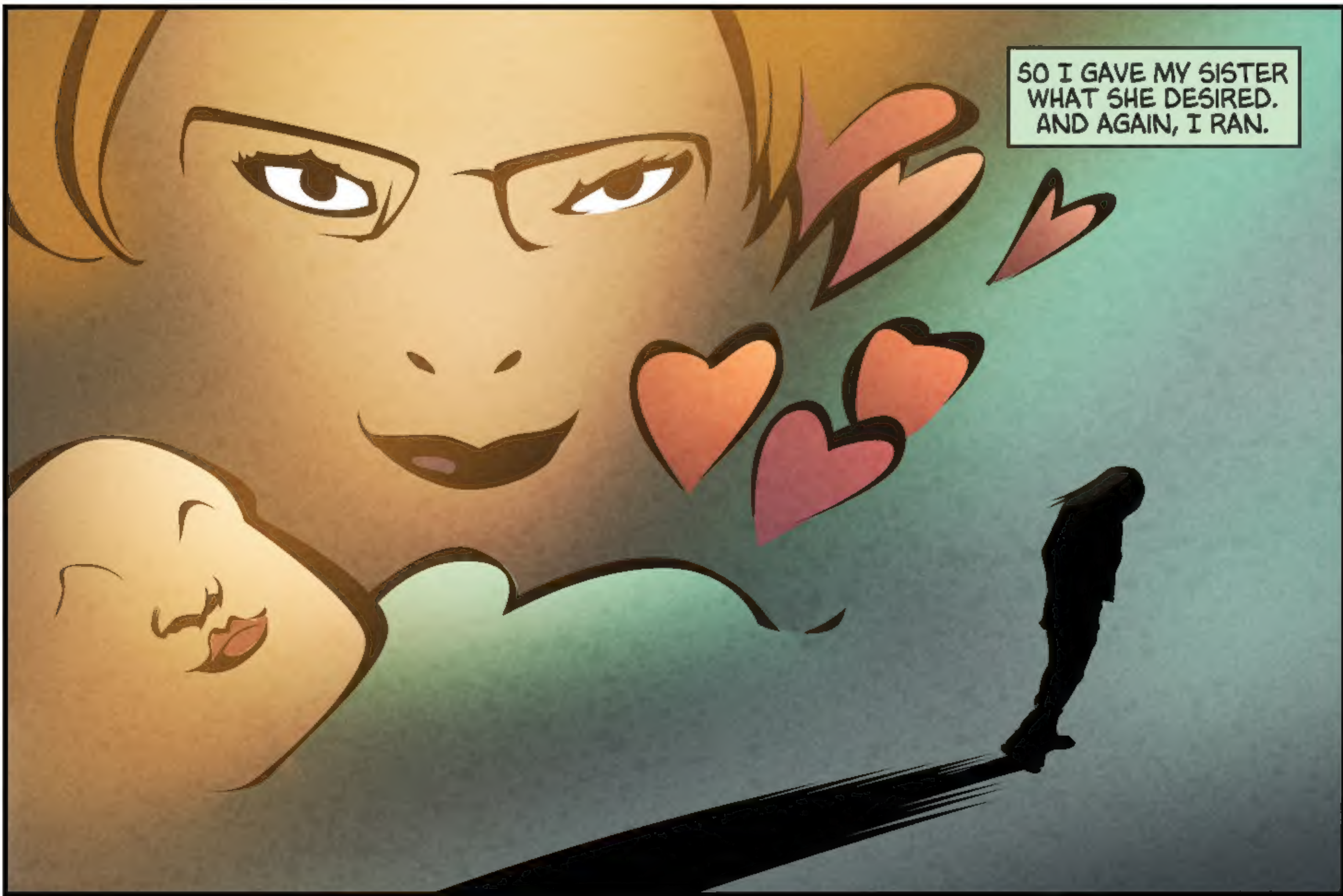
I TRIED GOING HOME.  
TELLING THE TRUTH.



WHICH IS HOW I CAME TO LIVE  
WITH CAROL. THE BIG SISTER I  
COULD ALWAYS DEPEND ON.



BUT AS YOU KNOW,  
MORE OFTEN THAN  
NOT HAVING AN ABILITY  
IS MORE OF A BURDEN  
THAN A BLESSING.



SO I GAVE MY SISTER  
WHAT SHE DESIRED.  
AND AGAIN, I RAN.





AND THAT'S  
WHEN I MET  
JOSEPH.

TONIGHT,  
THE COST OF  
ADMISSION IS BUT  
A SMILE.

JUST BEING IN HIS  
PRESENCE MADE  
ME FEEL BETTER.



HE TRULY WANTED TO  
HELP PEOPLE LIKE US.

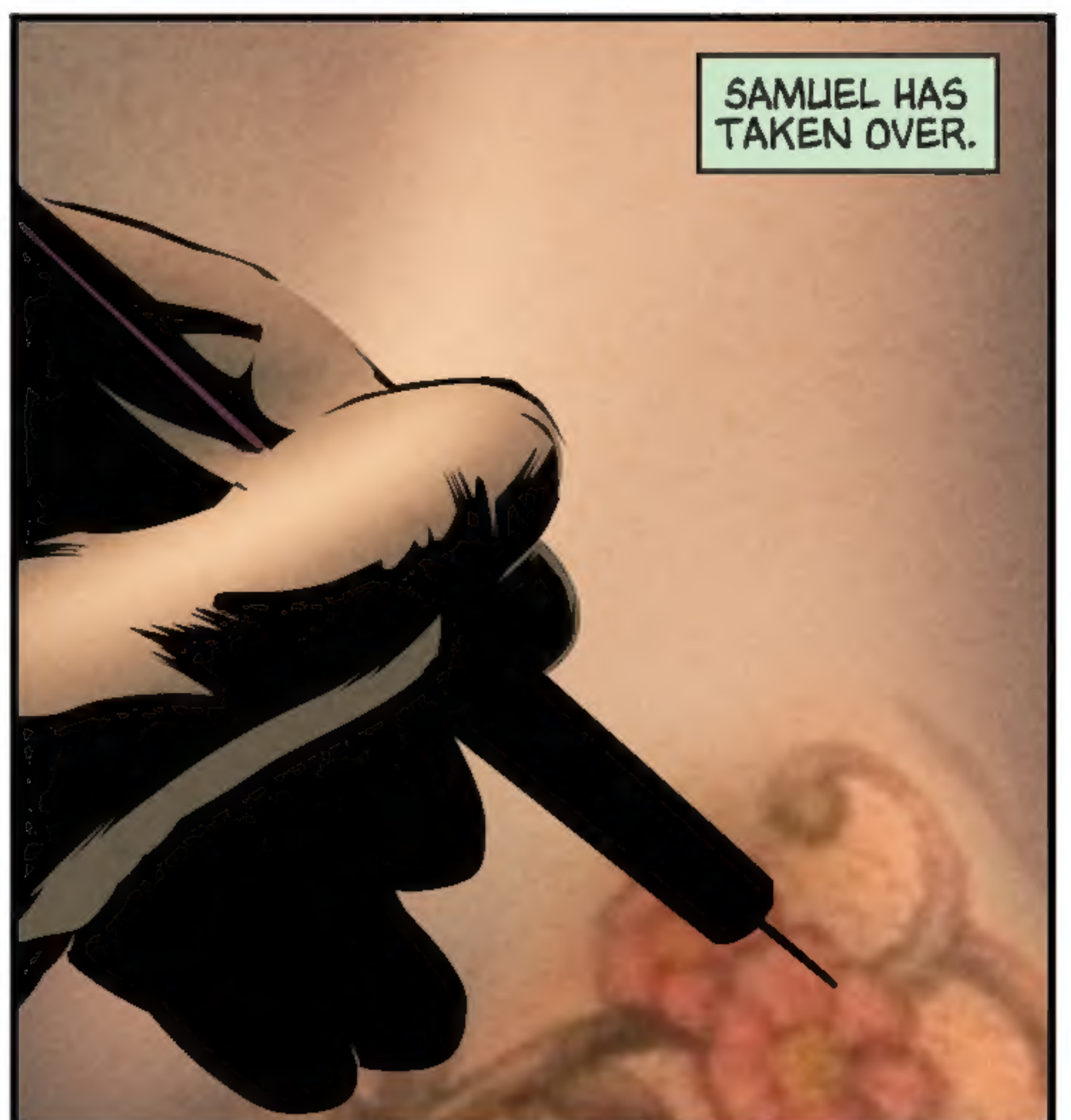


IF SHE LIVES HERE,  
SHE EARNS HER KEEP.  
THAT'S OUR CODE.

SHE NEEDS OUR  
UNDERSTANDING  
FIRST.



BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED  
HERE SINCE HE DIED.



SAMUEL HAS  
TAKEN OVER.



A man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt, stands in a green, misty environment. He has a long, dark fox tail behind him. He is looking upwards with a determined expression, his fists clenched. Above him is a large, dark, jagged rock formation. Several bright green energy beams emanate from the rock, creating a dramatic effect. The background is a deep blue sky with some clouds.

I CAN FEEL HIS  
DESIRE FOR POWER  
GROWING.





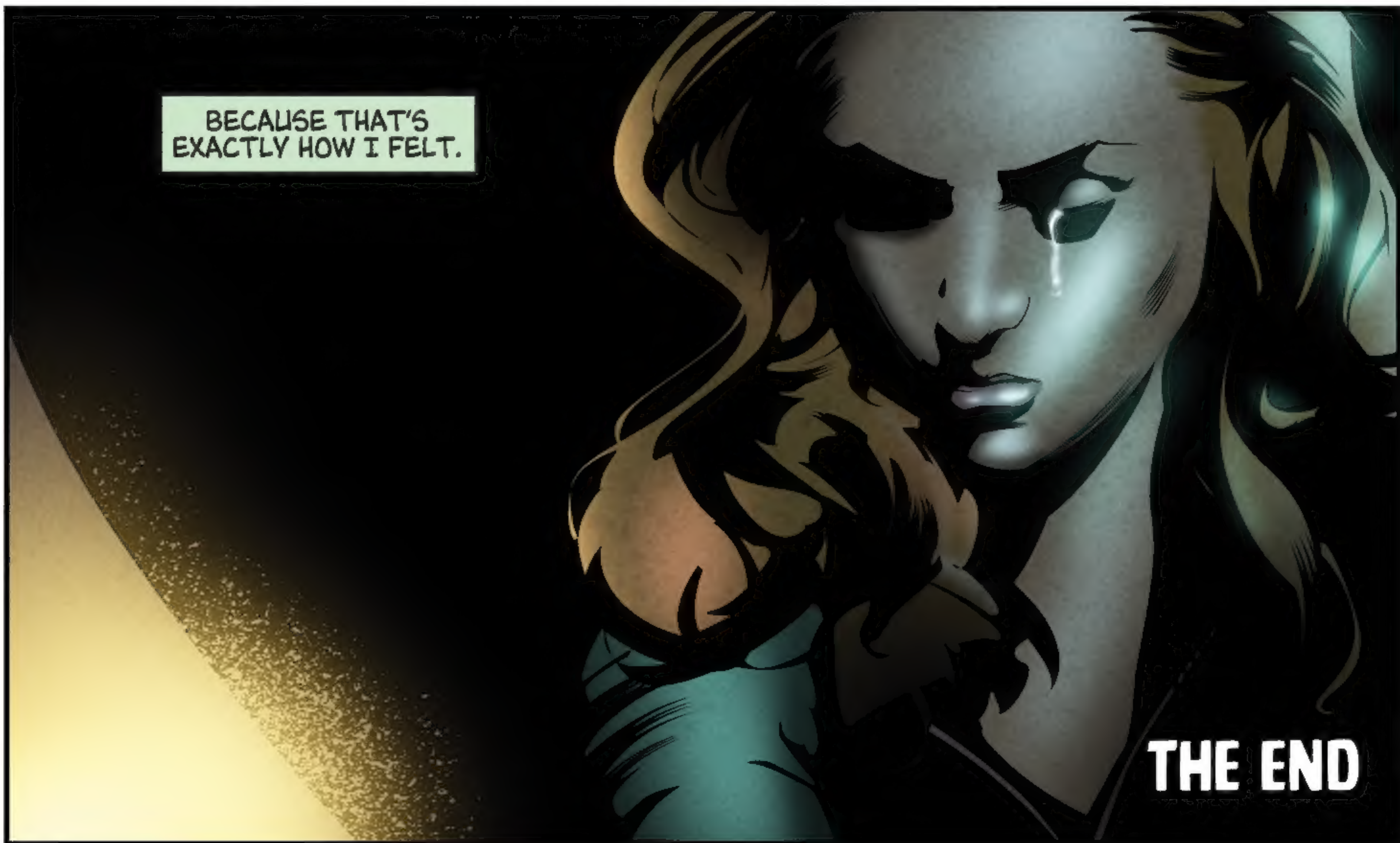
I KNOW YOU FEEL  
I HARDLY QUALIFY  
AS YOUR MOTHER.



BUT I STILL WANT TO PROTECT YOU  
FROM REPEATING THE MISTAKES I MADE.



I DON'T EVEN NEED  
MY ABILITY TO KNOW  
YOU SEE THIS PLACE  
AS THE ONE RAY OF  
HOPE IN YOUR LIFE.



BECAUSE THAT'S  
EXACTLY HOW I FELT.

**THE END**